

AMERICAN RESEARCH AND  
COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, which is especially important to New Jersey, one of America's most research-intensive states. Yet I must ask how my Republican colleagues can support this tax expenditure while opposing all other forms of government spending.

Republicans say America can't afford to pass unemployment insurance for 2.5 million Americans struggling to find work. NIH is at the lowest funding in three years, distributing fewer and fewer grants, but we can't afford to fund scientific and health research. There is a \$2 trillion transportation backlog, but we can't afford to repair and upgrade our roads, bridges, tunnels, and dams. Yet somehow, they say we can afford special tax cuts?

That's nonsense. To quote Martin Feldstein, the former chief economic advisor to Ronald Reagan, "These tax rules . . . are equivalent to direct government expenditures."

The distinction between tax expenditures and direct spending is one that only Grover Norquist could love. If America can afford this tax cut—and indeed we can—then we can afford to do so much more.

So I thank Republican leaders for correctly acknowledging the role of government investment in our economy. And I call on them to use this same logic to find more ways to invest in America. Let us pass a transportation bill that funds our roads and bridges. Let's meet the funding goals for scientific research that we set in the 2007 and 2010 COMPETES Act. Let's help the millions of Americans looking for work with the support they need. We can do better. The American people deserve better.

LEGISLATION THAT WOULD  
ALLOW FAA TO CONTINUE WITH  
ADOPTION OF OEI CRITERIA**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a proposed policy that could have a significant adverse effect on jobs, private property, tax revenues, and economic development in several major American cities that host airports, and their surrounding communities.

The proposed change seeks to significantly alter current criteria used to evaluate structure heights around airports by changing the way a single engine failure at the moment of takeoff scenario is considered. This more rigorous standard would effectively lower the maximum permissible structure height around airports, affecting nearly 4,000 existing buildings in 48 States that would exceed the new criteria, not to mention a number of planned developments.

No one disputes aviation safety must be the top priority when considering these proposals.

However, every air carrier is already currently required to individually plan for a single engine failure scenario. These contingency plans may result in costly measures for the carriers such as greater fuel burn, reduced cargo, or reduced numbers of passengers. For this reason, FAA has historically considered OEI as an economic issue.

Given the potential far-reaching economic impact of this change and the competing economic interest at stake, we believe that this action should only be accomplished in accordance with standard rulemaking procedures, requiring a cost-benefit analysis with input from OMB and other agencies, and taking into consideration the real-world effects of such a change. A bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators wrote to Secretary Foxx and Administrator Huerta earlier this year asking for this very thing.

Last month, FAA posted a notice of policy change to the Federal Register announcing their intention to proceed with consideration of OEI via a change to policy, thus bypassing the rigors of a formal rulemaking. This action allows FAA to circumvent the rigors of cost-benefit and federalism analysis under Executive Order 12866 by calling this significant change to Part 77 a policy change, when it is, in fact, a rule change.

I, along with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, have introduced legislation today that would allow FAA to continue with adoption of OEI criteria only if the policy is adopted via a formal rulemaking, requiring input from OMB, OIRA, and other agencies, as well as a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis weighing competing economic interest and proposed practices versus current ones. This bill applies only to OEI consideration, and would not preempt the agency's ability to act in the event of an emergency situation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
SEERSUCKER DAY**HON. BILL CASSIDY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

In celebration and appreciation of seersucker manufacturers and admirers around the country, I extend a Happy Seersucker Day. With a rich history dating back to 1909, seersucker clothing is a unique American fashion. The original seersucker suit was designed by Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans and has been enjoyed since by many Americans. The lightweight cotton fabric with its signature "pucker" has provided comfortable fashion ware during the hot summer months. As Mr. Haspel said, "hot is hot, no matter what you do for a living", seersucker clothing is now enjoyed by Americans across the country in all walks of life. In the late 1990s, Seersucker Day was established to honor this unique American fashion. I wish to restart this tradition by designating Wednesday, June 11th as National Seersucker Day. I encourage everyone to wear seersucker to commemorate this iconic American clothing.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of May, in the year of our

Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

RECOGNIZING AWANA CO-FOUNDERS ART & WINNIE ROHRHEIM'S  
75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Art and Winnie Rohrheim's 75th wedding anniversary.

When the couple married in 1939, little did anyone know the impact that they would have on the world. What began as a personal passion for working with children in Chicago, Illinois, grew quickly into a successful program driven by their love and dedication to God and the kids.

By 1950, the Rohrheims founded Awana, the now-internationally renowned program, which stands for "Approved Workers Are Not Ashamed." Today Awana Clubs International reaches more than 2 million children in more than 100 countries on a weekly basis, encouraging young people everywhere to grow in their faith and learn more about the Bible's teachings.

At the heart of Awana is the Gospel. Art and Winnie have devoted a lifetime to their Lord and Savior. Not a day goes by that they aren't sharing with those they meet the truth of Jesus dying for our sins.

For three quarters of a century, Art and Winnie's strength of love and commitment has been a testimony for their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all those who have had the honor of knowing them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring Art and Winnie Rohrheim for their milestone wedding anniversary, and their exemplary contributions to this nation and the lives of millions around the world.

HONORING THE BRAVE AND TALENTED LAKE FOREST COUNTRY  
DAY SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN THE 39TH ANNUAL  
ROBBIE BIRMINGHAM SPEAKING  
CONTEST**HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 13 exceptional students at Lake Forest Country Day School (LFCDS) in the suburban Chicago district I represent.

These fifth through eighth grade students honored a 39-year tradition born out of a moment of pure courage, when Robbie Birmingham, recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, rose to his feet, delivered a speech from his heart and moved all those in attendance.

This year's 13 finalists spoke with poise, passion, pride and great courage themselves. They elucidated universal topics, big and small, and brought them to life with personal experiences.

Angelique Alexos on technology; Foster Graf on courage; Chapin Grumhaus on community cooperation; Heather Knobel on dyslexia; Luke Maggos on stereotypes; Olivia Maggos on Russian adoption; Tyler Medvec on unsung heroes; Calvin Osborne on NASA; Charlie Shattock on optimism; Lily Silvester on baking; Scotty Skinner on Falling Whistles; Kimberly Stafford on underdogs; and Chloe Whelan on what is normal.

Since the Annual Robbie Bermingham Speaking Contest is, in fact, a competition, special recognition must go to Chloe Whelan, who took First Place, to Tyler Medvec for a Second Place finish and to Heather Knobel and Chapin Grumhaus for jointly taking Third Place.

These students, their enthusiasm, their eloquence and their vision truly inspired me and gave me hope for our future.

I am grateful for the lasting impression that young Robbie Bermingham has left on Lake Forest Country Day School, its faculty and students, and I am glad that they carry on that legacy of public speaking excellence today. Congratulations once again to all 13 finalists, and thank you for bringing us hope and perspective.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 204 held on May 7, 2014, I intended to vote "no." I oppose H. Res. 565, "Calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service," and support the ongoing efforts of the Justice Department to investigate the alleged targeting of both conservative and liberal groups.

HONORING BATTALION SGT.  
MAJOR ROBERT J. BLATNIK

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Battalion Sgt. Major Robert J. Blatnik for his exceptional service to our country. He joined the US Army's 1st Battalion, 26th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, on October 19, 1938, and would remain in this unit for the entirety of his time in the service. He saw combat during WWII in North Africa, Tunisia, Sicily, Germany, and France. On June 6, 1944 he took part in the first wave of the invasion of Normandy at Omaha Beach—Fox Red 1. Mr. Blatnik earned 4 Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, 5 Bronze Stars, and several other medals.

Mr. Blatnik remains a true patriot, and last summer, he was among six Normandy vets from Texas selected to go back to the beachhead where so many gave the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom. Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be

proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Battalion Sgt. Major Robert J. Blatnik for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

#### REQUESTING AN EXPEDITED ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR COMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, on August 22, 2006, Compton Community College lost its accreditation. Because it is a core educational institution for students from Compton and neighboring cities such as Carson, Lynwood, Paramount, Watts, and North Long Beach, I would like to take this time to recognize its excellence and request an expedited accreditation process.

Compton Community College has a proud history of being a primary provider of high quality post-secondary education for persons of color in the greater Los Angeles County region from 1927 until 2006. Not only is it a source of community pride and positive stimulus for students and families, but it also supports the continued development of the surrounding communities.

Since 2006, the Compton Community College District Board of Trustees, under the direction of the highly regarded Dr. Keith Curry, have partnered Compton Community with El Camino College, an accredited school of good standing in order to offer accredited courses to 6,780 students.

El Camino College's involvement have kept the higher education alive in Compton, however the people of Compton deserve a college to call their own. Compton Community College served as a source of community pride, a positive stimulus for students and families, and supported the continued development of the surrounding communities.

Therefore, I am introducing a resolution to urge an expedited accreditation process for Compton Community College. I stand with the faculty and students of Compton Community College, and look forward to Compton College once again leading the young people of Compton through their pursuit of higher education.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION ACT OF 2014

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act of 2014, a bill that will create an independent commission to evaluate U.S. policies aimed at reducing drug production and trafficking in the Western Hemisphere. A similar bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously on December 8, 2009 with a bipartisan group of 30 cosponsors.

I thank my good friend and colleague Congressman MATT SALMON, the Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, for being the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation. I also thank Representatives SIREN, ROSELEHTINEN and O'Rourke for being original cosponsors of the bill.

With \$15.7 billion spent on counternarcotics programs in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and 2012, it is important to take stock of what has worked, what has not worked and what future U.S. drug policy should look like. This independent commission will be required to submit recommendations on future U.S. drug policy to Congress, the Secretary of State and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy 12 months after its first meeting.

The time to examine U.S. drug policy is long overdue. While billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to fight the drug trade, illegal drug use in the United States remains high. In 2012, there were an estimated 23,900,000 illicit drug users in the United States. In particular, I am concerned by the dramatic increase in heroin use in our country. Attorney General Eric Holder recently noted that heroin overdose deaths in the United States increased by an alarming 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

On the supply side, nearly all cocaine consumed in the United States originates in South America while most of the heroin consumed here is from Colombia and Mexico. In addition, Central America and the Caribbean are key transit regions for drugs entering the United States.

To tackle our nation's horrific drug problem once and for all, we must have a better sense of what works and what does not work. Our partners in the Americas, who have worked closely with us in fighting drug trafficking for years, and the citizens of our great country, who deal every day with illegal drugs on their streets, deserve no less.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF EDWARD IWANICKI, SR.

#### HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the State of Connecticut lost one of its great sons with the passing of Edward Iwanicki, Sr., a leader who served Connecticut through a long and distinguished career in public service.

Mr. Iwanicki, one of ten children born to Polish immigrants Konstanty and Mary Pauline Boczkowska Iwanicki, was born and raised in Meriden, Connecticut. A talented athlete, he excelled at sports, even being named All-State Quarterback in 1937. He went on to share his passion for athletics with younger generations of Meriden youth, serving as a coach and umpire for city baseball and football teams.

When the United States entered World War II, Mr. Iwanicki served his country as an infantryman in the U.S. Army.

Following World War II, Mr. Iwanicki returned to Meriden and began his 35-year career at New Departure, which was then part of